United Nations ST/IC/1999/42

Secretariat

17 June 1999

Information circular*

To: Members of delegations and staff

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services

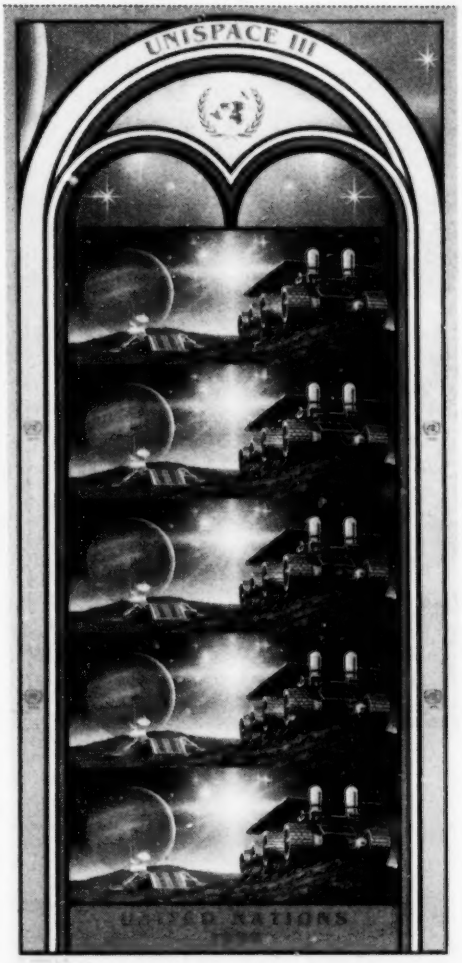
Subject: **First day of issue: UNISPACE III stamps and souvenir sheets**

1. On Wednesday, 7 July 1999, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of three miniature sheets of ten commemorative stamps each and three souvenir sheets to commemorate the Third Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), to be held in Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999.

2. Each sheet of ten stamps consists of five horizontal se-tenant pairs of stamps. The format of the sheet has been designed with a special crown at the top and, to heighten the dramatic effect of both the stamp designs and the sheet format, the sheets of stamps will be rouletted (slit perforation) rather than perforated by the traditional pinhole method. The denominations of the stamps will be US$ 0.33, SwF 0,45 and S 3.50.

3. The souvenir sheets will be in denominations of $2.00, SwF 2,00 and S 13. The Swiss franc-denominated souvenir sheet will also be available overprinted to commemorate Philexfrance, to be held in Paris from 2 to 11 July 1999.

4. The issue was designed by Attila Hejja (United States of America), who also designed the 1992 "Mission to Planet Earth" stamps.



* Expiration date of the present information circular: 31 July 1999.

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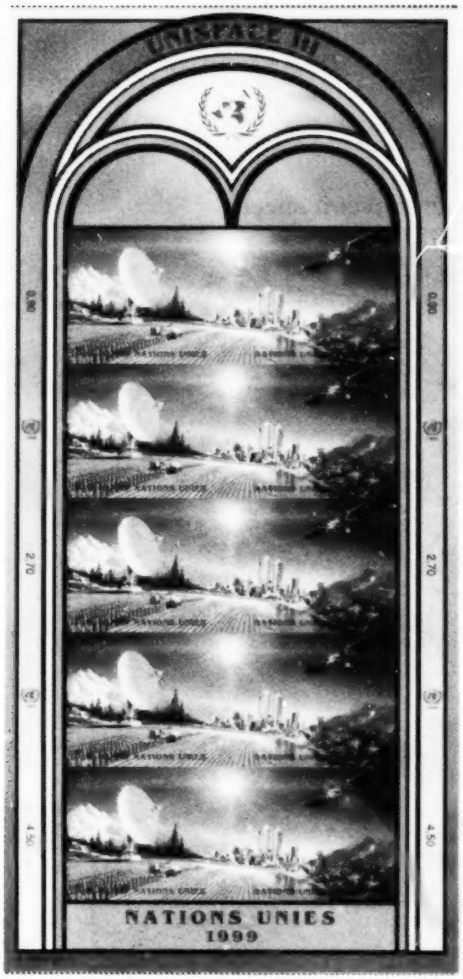
5. The format of the sheet concept was originally created by Rocco J. Callari and Robert Stein created the sheet design. Both designers are staff members of the United Nations.

(United States equivalents — SwF 0,45: $0.30; SwF 2,00: $1.32; S 13: $0.99 and S 3.50: $0.27 — subject to exchange rate fluctuation.)



Selling units

6. Owing to the unusual format of the sheets, collectors are advised that the following selling units are available:

(a) **Mint stamps**

The mint stamps will be available in selling units of a full sheet of ten stamps or a single unit of a se-tenant pair of two stamps only;

(b) **First-day covers**

(i) Single — one cover for each denomination affixed with one attached plain se-tenant pair of stamps;

(ii) Marginal inscription block of four — one cover for each denomination affixed with one attached marginal inscription block of two se-tenant pairs from the bottom of the sheet only;

(iii) Combination — one cover for each denomination affixed with one attached se-tenant pair together with the top crown design of the sheet;

(iv) Jumbo — one large cover for each denomination affixed with the full sheet;

(v) Triple-cancelled — one large cover affixed with one attached se-tenant pair together with the top crown design of the sheet of each denomination;

(vi) Souvenir sheet — one cover for each denomination, including the overprinted Philexfrance souvenir sheet which will be cancelled first day of issue, 7 July, Geneva;

(vii) Triple-cancelled souvenir sheet — one large cover affixed with one of each souvenir sheet. Special note: the overprinted Philexfrance souvenir sheet will not be affixed to this cover as the only cancellation available for the overprinted souvenir sheet is Geneva.

Special note

7. (a) Customers with standing orders for either of the three souvenir sheet categories will receive their usual requirements; however, customers with a Geneva souvenir sheet requirement will receive the overprinted Philexfrance souvenir sheet;

(b) The overprinted Philexfrance souvenir sheet will not be included in the 1999 Geneva Annual Collection Folder.

General information

8. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York, Geneva and Vienna first-day covers on the UNPA official first-day cachet only. Members of delegations and the staff can obtain these items on Wednesday, 7 July, at the following locations:

(a) The UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building: 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.;

(b) Counter at the north end of the Secretariat lobby from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

9. First-day-of-issue cancellations can be obtained at the following temporary United States Postal Service substations:

(a) Counter outside the United Nations Bookstore in the concourse of the General Assembly Building from 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.;

(b) Counter along the west wall of the north end of the Secretariat Lobby from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

10. Information on United Nations stamps can be accessed on the Internet at http://www.un.org/Depts/UNPA.